

SOCKEYE SALMON MICO-WIRE TAGGING STUDIES, 1987

By  
Fred Bergander

Regional Information Report<sup>1</sup> No. 1J88-29

Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Division of Commercial Fisheries  
Juneau, Alaska

September 1988

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# SOCKEYE SALMON MICRO-WIRE TAGGING STUDIES

## 1987 Final Report

### Summary of Progress

#### Work Accomplishments

##### A. Tasks Scheduled:

This project tags and releases sockeye salmon smolt from McDonald and Hugh Smith Lakes in southern Southeast Alaska to assist in identifying the timing, migratory patterns, and gear type harvest rates of these two stocks. The tag release goals for each of these systems was a minimum of 50,000 coded wire tagged smolts.

##### B. Tasks Accomplished:

There were 39,434 sockeye tags released at Hugh Smith Lake and 5,782 tagged sockeye released at McDonald Lake. The tag codes, tags released by time period, and dates of release were as follows:

Location	Species	Tag Code	Tags Released	Dates
Hugh Smith	Sockeye	4-29-58	29,259	4/29-5/18
	Sockeye	4-29-25	10,180	5/18-5/24
	Coho	4-29-24	5,202	4/26-5/24
McDonald	Sockeye	4-29-59	5,782	5/03-5/25
	Coho	4-29-59	5,617	4/29-5/24

##### C. Special Problems, Differences, etc.:

Difficulties in capturing sockeye smolt was the factor that prevented us from reaching our minimum goal of 50,000 tagged smolt. The smolt trap used at McDonald Lake did not cover the entire width of the outlet stream and it appeared that the smolt were avoiding the trap by swimming around the end. This trap design had been used successfully at McDonald Lake in the past by other projects; however, it appeared that water flows and the density of migrating schools of sockeye smolt contributed to the poor catch. Although the capture of sockeye smolt at Hugh Smith was much better, our failure to meet the tagging goal was attributed to low number of migrating smolt.

Coho salmon were tagged opportunistically in co-operation with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Coho Research Program.

##### D. Expenditures:

See budget summaries.